

§ 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Amendments

In the Claims:

Please cancel claim 8 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Please substitute the following claims 1, 5-13, 16, 17, 21-28 and 31 for the pending claims 1, 5-13, 16, 17, 21-28 and 31:

31 *Sub C1* 1. ~~(Once amended)~~ A process for the recovery of an organic acid from a fermentation broth comprising the steps of:

(a) drying said organic acid-containing fermentation broth to obtain an organic acid-containing dried product:

(b) adding said organic acid-containing dried product of step (a) to a lower alcohol in the presence of a non-organic acid; and

(c) removing insolubles to obtain an organic acid.

61 5. (Once amended) The process of claim 1, wherein in step (b) the concentration of said organic acid added to said lower alcohol is from about 50 g/L to about 100 g/L.

6. (Once amended) The process of claim 1, wherein in step (a) drying comprises spray drying said fermentation broth.

7. (Once amended) The process of claim 1, wherein in step (b) the reaction temperature is from about 25° C to about 60° C.

8. (Once amended) The process of claim 1, wherein in step (b) said dried product is added to a lower alcohol prior to the addition of said acid.

See 12 9. ~~(Once amended)~~ The process of claim 1, wherein in step (b) about 1.2 equivalents of said non-organic acid is present.

10. (Once amended) The process of claim 1, wherein in step (b) said lower alcohol is selected from the group consisting of methanol, ethanol, propanol, butanol and glycol.

11. (Once amended) The process of claim 1, wherein in step (b) said acid is selected from the group consisting of sulphuric acid, nitric acid, hydrobromic acid, hydrochloric acid and phosphoric acid.

12. (Once amended) The process of claim 11, wherein in step (b) said acid is sulphuric acid.

13. (Once amended) The process of claim 1, wherein in step (c) [the process for] removing insolubles comprises filtration.

16. (Once amended) The process of claim 1, further comprising esterifying said organic acid of step (c) to the corresponding ester.

17. (Once amended) A process for the recovery of an organic acid from a fermentation broth comprising the steps of:

(a) drying said fermentation organic acid-containing broth to obtain an organic acid-containing dried product;

(b) adding said organic acid-containing dried product of step (a) to a lower alcohol to obtain an alcoholic suspension;

(c) adding a non-organic acid to said alcoholic suspension of step (b); and

(d) removing the insolubles to obtain an organic acid.

21. (Once amended) The process of claim 17, wherein in step (b) the concentration of said organic acid added to said lower alcohol is from about 50 g/L to about 100 g/L.

22. (Once amended) The process of claim 17, wherein in step (a) [the process for] drying comprises spray drying said fermentation broth.

23. (Once amended) The process of claim 17, wherein in steps (b) and (c) the reaction temperature is from about 25 °C to about 60 °C.

24. (Once amended) The process of claim 17, wherein in step (b) said lower alcohol is selected from the group consisting of methanol, ethanol, propanol, butanol and glycol.

25. (Once amended) The process of claim 17, wherein in step (c) about 1.2 equivalents of acid is added.

26. (Once amended) The process of claim 17, wherein in step (c) said acid is selected from the group consisting of sulphuric acid, nitric acid, hydrobromic acid, hydrochloric acid and phosphoric acid.

27. (Once amended) The process of claim 26, wherein in step (c) said acid is sulphuric acid.

28. (Once amended) The process of claim 17, wherein in step (d) [the process for] removing insolubles comprises filtration.

31. (Once amended) The process of claim 17, further comprising esterifying said organic acid of step (d) to the corresponding ester.